

Message Text

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20

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /049 W

----- 026613

P R 131703Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5236

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

DOD WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 0756

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, NI

SUBJ: U.S. MILITARY AIRLIFT FOR TWO NIEGERIAN NAVAL
VESSELS

1. AMBASSADOR AHMADU-SUKA OF NIGERIA CALLED ME ON
11 FEBRUARY TO ASK IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN
U.S. MILITARY AIRLIFT FROM THE NETHERLANDS TO KANO
NIGERIA FOR TWO BOATS UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY A DUTCH
FIRM FOR THE NIEGERIAN GOVERNMENT. EACH VESSEL WEIGHTS
20 TONS AND OUTSIDE DIMENSIONS (IN METERS) ARE 18.5L
X 3.5H X 4.5W.

2. AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST WAS MADE AT THE DIRECTION OF
HIS GOVERNMENT WHICH IS PLANNING A FORMAL DEDICATION
OF A NEWLY CONSTRUCTED LAKE NEAR KANO ON 26 FEBRUARY.
THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE THE VESSELS IN PLACE
ON THE LAKE FOR THE DEDICATION CEREMONY. AMBASSADOR
AHMADU-SUKA WAS ADVISED THAT IF U.S. COULD MEET REQUEST,
AIR TRANSPORTATION FURNISHED WOULD ONLY BE ON A
REIMBURSABLE BASIS AND WOULD BE EXPENSIVE. AMBASSADOR
INDICATED THAT COST APPARENTLY WAS NOT A CONCERN.

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3. THE 26 FEBRUARY DATE PRECLUDES ANY CONSIDERATION

OF SURFACE TRANSPORTATION. POSSIBILITIES FOR COMMER-
CIAL AIR TRANSPORTATION ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION.
PANAM CANNOT HANDLE. KLM HAS NO PLANE THAT CAN HANDLE
EITHER BUT IS CHECKING INTO CHARTER OF QTE SUPER
GUPPY UNQTE FROM FRENCH AND WILL ADVISE US FEB 14.

4. WE ARE AWARE THAT APPROVAL OF MILITARY AIRLIFT IN
SUCH CASES IS CONTINGENT ON DETERMINATION BY SECSTATE
AND DOD THAT IT IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST. IN VIEW
OF THE POSITION OF NIGERIA AS AN OIL EXPORTING NATION
WE ARE FORWARDING AIRLIFT REQUEST, BUT DEFER ENTIRELY
TO EMBASSY LAGOS'S EVALUATION AS TO WHETHER USG SHOULD
ENDEAVOR TO MEET REQUEST. IN LIGHT OF THE EXTREMELY
SHORT TIME REMAINING WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN EXPEDITIOUS
REPLY.
GOULD

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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